

What is claimed is:

1. A configurable portable electronic device comprising:
2 a receiver configured to receive a wireless transmission containing coupon
3 information;
4 a processor electronically coupled to the receiver;
5 an electronic display coupled to the processor;
6 a memory containing a computer-readable program, the processor reading the
7 computer-readable program to generate a scannable coupon code from the coupon
8 information on the electronic display.

1 2. The configurable portable electronic device of claim 1 wherein the electronic
2 display has a nominal minimum dimension of less than about 13 mils and an inter-pixel
3 spacing of less than about 1.3 mils.

1 3. The configurable portable electronic device of claim 1 further comprising a
2 contrast-enhancing coating disposed on the electronic display.

1 4. The configurable portable electronic device of claim 3 wherein the contrast-
2 enhancing coating is an anti-reflective coating.

1 5. The configurable portable electronic device of claim 1 wherein the memory
2 further contains a data file storing coupon information.

1 6. The configurable portable electronic device of claim 5 wherein the data file
2 includes a plurality of subfiles, at least one of the plurality of subfiles containing a plurality of
3 coupon data fields, each of the coupon data fields in the subfile being related according to
4 redemption.

1 7. The configurable portable electronic device of claim 5 wherein the coupon
2 information is encrypted and the computer-readable program contains instructions executable
3 by the processor to decrypt the coupon information.

1 8. The configurable portable electronic device of claim 1 wherein the computer-
2 readable program contains instructions for converting a coupon from a first coupon format to
3 a second coupon format.

1 9. The configurable portable electronic device of claim 1 wherein the electronic
2 display is a dot-matrix liquid crystal display.

1 10. The configurable portable electronic device of claim 9 wherein the electronic
2 display is a super-twist liquid crystal display.

1 11. The configurable portable electronic device of claim 9 wherein the dot-matrix
2 liquid crystal display includes a plurality of storage capacitors, each of the plurality of storage
3 capacitors associated with each of a plurality of pixels in the dot-matrix liquid crystal display,
4 the storage capacitors increasing the persistence of the pixels after a strobe voltage is applied
5 to the pixels.

1 12. The configurable portable electronic device of claim 1 wherein the electronic
2 display is a dot-matrix liquid crystal display having pixels capable of maintaining a contrast
3 ratio of at least 1:4 between a light portion of a bar code and a dark portion of a bar code
4 displayed on the electronic display between a first strobe signal and a second strobe signal to
5 the pixels.

1 13. A configurable portable electronic device comprising:
2 a receiver configured to receive a wireless transmission containing coupon
3 information;
4 a processor electronically coupled to the receiver;
5 a persistent dot-matrix liquid crystal display having a minimum nominal dimension of
6 less than or equal to about 13 mils and an inter-pixel spacing of less than or equal to about 1.3
7 mils coupled to the processor;
8 a memory containing a computer-readable program, the processor reading the
9 computer-readable program to generate a scannable coupon code from the coupon
10 information on the electronic display.

1 14. A method for providing a redeemable coupon, the method comprising:
2 receiving coupon information over a wireless link with a portable electronic device;
3 processing the coupon information in the portable electronic device; and
4 generating a scannable coupon on a display of the portable electronic device.

1 15. The method of claim 14 wherein the scannable coupon is a barcode.

1 16. The method of claim 14 further comprising steps, before the receiving step, of:
2 encrypting coupon information; and after the receiving step,
3 decrypting coupon information.

1 17. The method of claim 14 wherein the coupon information includes user
2 information.

1 18. The method of claim 14 further comprising, between the receiving step and the
2 generating step, steps of:
3 saving the coupon information in local memory; and
4 recalling the coupon information from local memory.

1 19. The method of claim 18 further comprising steps, after the generating step, of:
2 entering a step command;
3 recalling second coupon information from local memory; and
4 generating a second scannable coupon on the display of the portable electronic
5 device.

1 20. The method of claim 14 further comprising, after the step of receiving the
2 coupon information, of
3 recalling user information from a memory of the portable handheld device,
4 wherein the generating step includes combining the user information with the coupon
5 information to generate the scannable coupon with user information.

1 21. A method for redeeming a coupon, the method comprising steps of:
2 transmitting coupon information to a portable electronic device;

- 3 generating a scannable electronic coupon on a display of the portable
- 4 electronic device; and
- 5 scanning the scannable electronic coupon on a redemption computer.